

UNCLASSIFIED

E7

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 KIGALI 01909 211403Z
ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EUR-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01
	DRL-09	G-00	/020W				

-----7FC52B 211912Z /38

R 211352Z OCT 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0271
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 001909

PARIS FOR MORAN

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, EAID, PHUM, BE, RW, FR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN

REF: STATE 282912

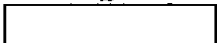
1. (U) CHARGE MET WITH ANNE-MARIE LIZIN, FORMER BELGIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, AND OLIVIER CAHEN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE US-AFRICAN FUND, ON THE PERIPHERIES OF A BELGIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION ON OCTOBER 19. THE EVENT WAS OF INTEREST FROM SEVERAL PERSPECTIVES: CAHEN'S VIEW OF FRANCO-RWANDAN RELATIONS, LIZIN'S WARM RECEPTION BY THE GOR,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KIGALI 01909 211403Z
AND THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERICS.

2. (C) IT WAS NOT THE RUN OF THE MILL KIGALI COCKTAIL. A FULL RANGE OF MINISTERS WAS PRESENT ALONG WITH VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BUT FOR A CHANGE THERE WERE NO MILITARY UNIFORMS IN SIGHT. CAHEN TOOK THE CHARGE ASIDE AND SAID THAT HE AND LIZIN WOULD SEE THE KAGAME/BIZIMUNGU/TWAGIRAMUNGU TROIKA THE NEXT DAY. HE SUBSEQUENTLY LAUNCHED INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT VISIT



B1

UNCLASSIFIED

4. (LOU) THE CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES THAT TRANSPIRED IN A TOWER OF BABEL ATMOSPHERE. THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR SPOKE FIRST IN KINYARWANDA, ELICITING WARM APPLAUSE FROM THE RWANDANS AND A MUTED RESPONSE FROM THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WHO HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD BEEN SAID. LIZIN REPLIED IN FRENCH, ANNOUNCING UP FRONT THAT THE GOB HAD GRANTED AGREEMENT TO PROPOSED RWANDAN AMBASSADOR DENIS (POLICY). SHE SAID THAT THE GOB WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN ITS HISTORICALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH RWANDA POINTEDLY REFERRING TO A COMMON FRANCOPHONE HERITAGE. THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

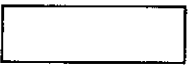
PAGE 03 KIGALI 01909 211403Z
FRENCH "ANTENNE DIPLOMATIQUE" LOOKED DISTINCTLY UNCOMFORTABLE AT THIS POINT. SHE CITED BRUSSELS' DECISION TO PUT MORE RESOURCES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AS EVIDENCE OF THIS COMMITMENT.

5. (LOU) AS IF ON CUE, THE AUSTRIAN CONSUL-GENERAL COLLAPSED. HE WAS RESUSCITATED AND LIZIN FORGED ON, EMPHASIZING BELGIAN INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAUDING THE GOB FOR APPOINTING A WOMAN MAYOR IN KIGALI. AT THIS POINT SOMEONE INFORMED LIZIN THAT NEITHER THE MAYOR NOR THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SPOKE FRENCH; SHE GAMELY DELIVERED A CREDITABLE VERSION OF SAME SPEECH IN ENGLISH.

6. (C) COMMENT. SEVERAL UNDERCURRENTS CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION. FIRST, THE ANGLOPHONE RWANDAN MINISTERS WE SPOKE WITH HAD LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NUANCES OF BELGIAN POLITICS, NOR SEEMINGLY MUCH INTEREST. SECOND, THE LARGE NUMBER OF MINISTERS WHO SHOWED, THE WARM APPLAUSE THAT FOLLOWED HER SPEECH, AND A NUMBER OF OFFHAND COMMENTS INDICATED RWANDAN INTEREST IN A SIGNIFICANT, CONTINUING BELGIAN ROLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

B1



WHITEHEAD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED